

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-857 (Sub-No. 1X)

May 29, 2008

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

() NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on May 9, 2008 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended one environmental condition and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following condition previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

Great Western Railway of Colorado (GWRC) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. GWRC shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the SHPO and any other Section 106 consulting parties. GWRC may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed, and the Board has removed this condition.

If the above condition is imposed, SEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

SEA CONTACT: Danielle Gosselin, 245-0300 